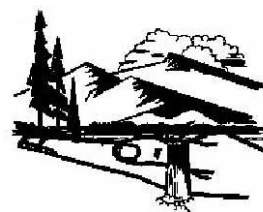




Mark Gordon, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

*To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's
environment for the benefit of current and future generations.*



Todd Parfitt, Director

March 9, 2021

Mr. Carl Daly
Acting Director
Air and Radiation Division
EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Initial Notification of Mt Cement September 26, 2020 PM₁₀ Wildfire Exceptional Event

Dear Mr. Daly,

Attached is an initial notification of a wildfire smoke exceptional event that occurred at the Mountain Cement Company (Mt Cement) East (LCPE) PM₁₀ monitoring station on September 26, 2020 that led to an exceedance of the 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS. The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality – Air Quality Division (AQD) has evaluated the initial notification and circumstances surrounding this event and represents that it should be evaluated by Region 8 as a possible exceptional event. The exceedance covered by this initial notification is summarized in the table below.

Date	AQS ID	Monitor Name	Owner	24-Hour PM ₁₀ Concentration (µg/m ³)
09/26/2020	56-001-0800	East (LCPE)	Mountain Cement	184

The AQD would like to request that the Administrator determine this possible event meets the provisions of 40 CFR 50.14 (a) (1) (F) as a regulatory determination made on a case by case basis. The AQD considers this event to be of regulatory significance because of the AQD's reliance on ambient data to determine compliance with the NAAQS at industrial facilities, the use of ambient data in AQD's permitting process, and third party interests. These reasons demonstrate the need to accurately portray anthropogenic versus non-anthropogenic or "exceptional" air quality issues to the public by means of excluding exceptional event concurred data from the data record.

In 1993 the AQD and EPA Region 8 signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to rely on ambient monitoring data at Powder River Basin coal mines to determine compliance with the 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS under the AQD's permitting process, rather than modeling potential 24-hour PM₁₀ impacts. In the decades since, the AQD has applied this same principal to other facilities across the state to demonstrate compliance with the 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS. The exceedance that the AQD is requesting Region 8 to review occurred at an industrial cement plant that has permit conditions requiring them to demonstrate compliance with the PM₁₀ NAAQS through the operation of a PM₁₀ monitoring network. The AQD reports these data to EPA Region 8 through EPA's AQS database. Because the effectiveness of the AQD's permitting and compliance programs are contingent on the lack of PM₁₀ NAAQS violations at required industrial monitoring stations, correctly reporting these data to EPA and AQS by placing exceptional event flags on these data is essential. The Region must take the appropriate steps to review and issue concurrence or non-concurrence on these data to accurately reflect the design value statistics in AQS and therefore accurately represent compliance with the NAAQS.

As mentioned above, the AQD relies on ambient industrial PM₁₀ data at facilities to determine compliance with the 24-hour NAAQS in the permitting process. It is critical that exceedances and violations of the NAAQS are properly characterized in the permit analysis as being anthropogenic or exceptional in nature. The AQD cannot issue a permit to a source that will cause or contribute to a violation of the NAAQS. For facilities that cannot model their potential permitting action, the AQD must rely on the ambient data record to prove compliance with the NAAQS. In order to rely on these monitoring data for permitting actions, exceptional events must be properly characterized in the data record and must be documented to EPA per 40 CFR 50.14.

It is also the AQD's stance that any exceedance caused by an exceptional event is significant and that it is important to demonstrate to the public the difference between exceedances that are anthropogenic versus those that are non-anthropogenic or exceptional in nature. Properly characterizing these exceedances in the public record and providing scientific evidence supporting the claim of exceptionality is essential to our shared role of serving the public. These data are used by the public, researchers, and other agencies to make scientific, public health, and policy decisions. These data must be properly flagged and concurred with in the EPA's AQS in order for those data to be handled correctly and reflect the monitor design values. Without the critical step of determining concurrence, data is often misused by these entities to support decisions.

Due to the above mentioned factors, the AQD considers this exceedance to meet the criteria of regulatory significance and requests that the Administrator make a determination under 40 CFR 50.14 (a) (1) (F) that the EPA will agree to review an exceptional event demonstration for this event.

Please contact Cara Keslar, Monitoring Section Supervisor, with questions at 307-777-8684.

Sincerely,



Darla J. Potter
Air Quality Resource Program Manager
Air Quality Division

Cc: Cara Keslar, AQD
Mark Andrews, Mountain Cement Company